previous three years, the achievements against the targets were as follows:

Year	Percentage of agricultural advances to net bank credit (Target 18%)
1993-94	15.05
1994-95	13.91
1995-96	14.29

(e) As per the estimates made by the Working Group of the Planning Commission on VIII Five Year Plan, the estimates requirements of credit during 1996-97 is Rs. 34,890 crores. The likely disbursals during the current year have been estimated by NABARD to be around Rs. 28.800 crores.

Recoveries from IRDP and PMRY Beneficiaries by Nationalised Banks

1074. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total overdue to be paid to the nationalised banks from beneficiaries under IRDP, PMRY, etc.; and

(b) the total overdue from debtor who obtained more than Rs. 25 lakhs as loan from nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the total overdues to be paid to the nationalised banks under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the year ended March, 1996 is given below:

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Scheme	*Amount*
IRDP	82682.48
PMRY	6246.65

(Figures provisional)

(b) The information is not generated by the data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India.

Promotion Policy formulated by Management of Punjab & Sind Bank

1075. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Punjab & Sind Bank has formulated some promotion policy in September, 1993 for promotion of officers from JMGS-I to MMGS-II;

(b) whether normal channel of said policy was based on seniority subject to fitness;

(c) if so, the details thereof with provision of reservation made for SC/ST employees in normal channel in pursuance of existing instructions issued by Government from non-selection to selection method;

(d) whether some amendment in normal channel of promotion has been made;

(e) whether such an amendment has provision of reservation for SC/ST employees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (f) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that as per the promotion policy in force prior to 1993, there was no reservation in the promotions of officers from JMGS-I to MMGS-II, as all promotions were done on the basis of merit. In the year 1993 the bank made certain amendments to the existing promotion policy and provided the channels of promotions *i.e.* a normal channel and a fast channel. The normal channel of such policy comprised of a written test/seniority. There was no provision for reservation in either of the channel. Based on this policy, bank made 48 promotions through normal channel during the year 1994. Apart from this, bank also effected 67 promotions on seniority-cum-fitness basis as a one time measure where reservation was provided.

Thereafter, during 1995, the bank made further amendments to the promotion policy. As per the 1995 amendments, promotions under the normal channel be strictly on the basis of

marks obtained in the written test, and there is no provision of reservations.

The 1995 amendments in the promotion policy were challenged in the Punjab and Haryana High Court by the All India Punjab & Sind Bank SCs & STs Welfare Council. The High Court, in its order dated 22.12.95 upheld the amended policy of 1995. It, however, directed the bank to provide reservations against the 48 promotions done by the bank during the year 1994, under the normal channel of promotions in the 1993 policy, where the bank had not provided any reservation. In compliance with the High Court orders, the bank provided for reservations of 10 SCs and 4 STs against the 48 General candidates promoted during the year 1994.

Target date before Committee of Secretaries on Pay Commission Report

1076. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target date before the Committee of Secretaries on the finalisation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the submission of the Report so that the Central Government gives the payment of arrears at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The empowered Committee will process the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission by following the established procedure, including consultation with the Staff Side of the National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery. It will be Government's endeavour to implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission as soon as feasible.

Session on 'Capital Account Covertibility and India Perspective'

1077. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the deliberations of the Session on 'Capital Account Covertibility and India Perspective' organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on January 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made therein about the economic situation in the country and the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen the economy; and

(c) what steps are being taken to strengthen the economy so as to secure full capital account covertibility of the Rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Government is aware that during the Managing Committee meeting of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry held in New Delhi on 6th January, 1997, the topic of "Capital Account Covertibility and Indian Perspective" was deliberated upon by the participating members.

(b) During the deliberations on the subject, it was opined that full covertibility of Rupee be introduced in phases with proper sequencing. Before the introduction of full-covertibility, macro-economic fundamentals (*viz.* fiscal deficit, inflation level, interest rates, domestic and external debt, current account deficit, GDP growth rate, level of savings and foreign exchange flows) should conform to the global standards. Experiences of the countries which have introduced full covertibility should be taken into account. In the meantime, restrictions on Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and current account transactions should be further Exchange Regulation Act and current account transactions should be further relaxed. Menace of black money should be effectively tackled and corporate tax rates brought down. Fiscal discipline should be enforced by cutting high cost Government's borrowings, and through PSUs disinvestments. Financial sector reforms should be speeded up. Firm political will is needed to promote the country's global integration.

(c) The Indian rupee is covertible in respect of certain constituent elements of the capital account. Full covertibility of the rupee on capital account requires fulfilment of some basic pre-conditions, which will ensure containment of the risks of capital flight and